

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A pipe inlet/outlet device, comprising a tubular body having a hollow, cylindrical neck portion throughout its length and defining a longitudinal axis, the neck portion having an open first end with an outside diameter adapted for fitting snugly in an inflow end of a pipe, and a rounded rim integral with and extending from the neck portion opposite the first end, the rim defining a mouth opening into the neck portion, the rim curving outward and rearward from the mouth and forming a skirt terminating in a lip, a recess being defined between the skirt and the neck portion.

Claim 2. (*Currently Amended*) The pipe inlet/outlet device according to claim 1, wherein ~~said neck portion is cylindrical~~, the mouth of the pipe inlet/outlet device being substantially circular, the recess being annular.

Claim 3. (*Original*) The pipe inlet/outlet device according to claim 1, wherein the rim is rounded with a constant radius of curvature as viewed in a plane containing the longitudinal axis.

Claim 4. (*Original*) The pipe inlet/outlet device according to claim 3, wherein the constant radius of curvature is about one-eighth of the outside diameter of the neck portion.

Claim 5. (*Original*) The pipe inlet/outlet device of claim 1, wherein an inner surface of said pipe inlet/outlet device includes boundary layer turbulators.

Claim 6. (*Original*) The pipe inlet/outlet device of claim 1, wherein an inner surface of said pipe inlet/outlet device defines a fluid pathway, said pipe inlet/outlet device further comprising a plurality of ribs extending into said fluid pathway for affecting fluid flow through said pipe inlet/outlet device.

Claim 7. (*Original*) The pipe inlet/outlet device of claim 1, wherein an inner surface of said pipe inlet/outlet device defines a fluid pathway, said pipe inlet/outlet device having a plurality of grooves extending into said fluid pathway for affecting fluid flow through said pipe inlet/outlet device.

Claim 8. (*Original*) The pipe inlet/outlet device of claim 1, wherein the mouth of the tubular body has a trumpet bell shape.

Claim 9. (*Original*) The pipe inlet/outlet device according to claim 1, wherein the rim is rounded with a radius of curvature gradually decreasing from the mouth to the lip of said skirt as viewed in a plane containing the longitudinal axis, thereby defining a spiral shape.

Claim 10. *(Original)* The pipe inlet/outlet device according to claim 1, wherein said tubular body is made from plastic.

Claim 11. *(Original)* The pipe inlet/outlet device according to claim 1, wherein said tubular body is made from high density polyethylene.

Claim 12. *(Original)* The pipe inlet/outlet device according to claim 1, wherein said tubular body is made from metal.

Claim 13. *(Original)* The pipe inlet/outlet device according to claim 1, wherein the neck portion of said tubular body is dimensioned and configured for friction fit into an inflow end of a storm drainage pipe disposed in a tank.

Claim 14. *(Original)* A fluid handling system, comprising:

- a retention tank;

- a pipe extending from the retention tank, the pipe having an inflow end for receiving the fluid from the tank;

- a pipe inlet device having:

- a tubular body having a hollow, cylindrical neck portion defining a longitudinal axis, the neck portion having an open first end fitting snugly into the inflow end of the pipe, and a rounded rim integral with and extending from the neck portion opposite the first end, the rim

defining a mouth opening into the neck portion, the rim curving outward and rearward from the mouth and forming a skirt terminating in a lip, an annular recess being defined between the skirt and the neck portion.

Claim 15. *(Original)* The fluid handling system according to claim 14, wherein the rim is rounded with a constant radius of curvature as viewed in a plane containing the longitudinal axis.

Claim 16. *(Original)* The fluid handling system according to claim 14, wherein the constant radius of curvature is about one-fourth of an inside radius of said pipe.

Claim 17. *(Original)* The fluid handling system according to claim 14, wherein said tank is selected from the group consisting of a manhole and a catch basin.

Claim 18. *(Original)* The fluid handling system according to claim 14, wherein said tubular body is made from high density polyethylene.

Claim 19. (*Currently Amended*) A method of increasing a fluid handling capacity of a pipe, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a pipe inlet device comprising a neck portion having a neck portion adapted for fitting snugly in an inflow end of the pipe and a rounded rim integral with and extending from the neck portion opposite the first end, the rim defining a mouth opening into the neck portion, the rim curving outward and rearward from the mouth and forming a skirt terminating in a lip, a recess being defined between the skirt and the neck portion;

attaching the neck portion pipe inlet device to the inflow end of the pipe;

whereby the rounded rim provides a consistent, smooth entry to efficiently guide the fluid into the pipe thereby improving the rate of flow into the pipe.

Claim 20. (*Original*) The method of increasing fluid handling capacity according to claim 19, wherein said attaching step further comprises the steps of:

applying adhesive to an outside of the neck portion; and

inserting the neck portion into the inflow end of the pipe.